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PENSOFT

First documented records of Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Aves: Tyrannidae), in Uruguay

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Abstract
The first documented records of Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Aves: Tyrannidae), for Uruguay are reported. The species was recorded 4 times between 1993 and 2016 in southeastern Uruguay. Due to the few records of isolated individuals we propose that the species is a vagrant in Uruguay.

Key words
South America; Campos; vagrant; new records.

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Introduction

The Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Passeriformes: Tyrannidae), is a migratory and widely distributed species in the Americas (Ridgely and Tudor 2009, Mobley 2016). It breeds in North America, from southern Canada to southern United States, remaining there between April and August. During the boreal winter, it migrates to South America from Colombia to central Argentina (Ridgely and Tudor 2009) (Fig. 1) where it is considered a regular visitor. In winter, the species uses forested habitats and also open terrains near water, in large and silent groups (Canevari et al. 1991). Arballo and Cravino (1999) included the species in the systematic list of the birds of Uruguay, but provided no details or photographs of any record. Later, Claramunt and Cuello (2004) excluded *T. tyrannus* from the list of bird species of Uruguay because of the lack of evidence, a position maintained by Claramunt and Aldabe (2016). This paper presents the first documented records of *T. tyrannus* for Uruguay.

Methods

We present information corresponding to four solitary individuals observed by the authors in 1995, 2003, 2012 and 2016 (Fig. 1). The first bird was sighted by EA on 7 May 1995 in a riparian forest along the Laguna Merin coast, in Rocha department (33.1961° S, 53.6672° W) (Fig. 2). The second was also sighted by EA, on 4 January 2003 roosting on the border of a eucalyptus plantation near Route 8, km 93.5 in Lavalleja department (34.4772° S, 55.4575° W). The third record of the species was made by MJRC on 14 November 2012. The bird was on a solitary dead tree in a wetland in the north coast of Laguna Negra, near Potrerillo de Santa Teresa Biological Station, in Rocha department (33.9687° S, 53.6513° W) (Fig. 3). The last record was made by JCG on 11–12 May 2016. The bird was perching on a fence and branches of short trees, catching insects at the border of a flood in Laguna de Castillos, in Rocha department (34.3508° S, 53.8677° W). The second and last records were not documented with photographs.

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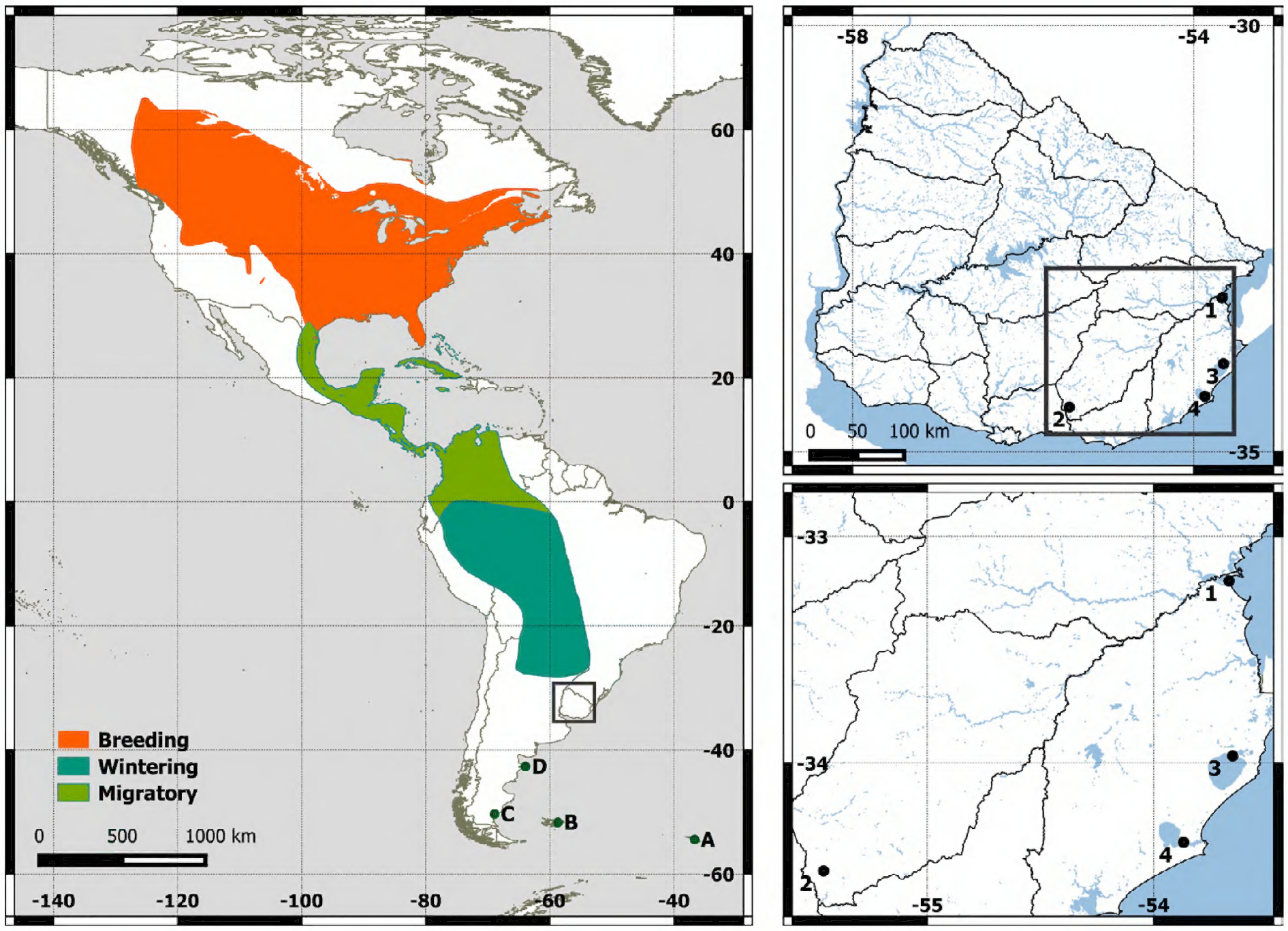

Figure 1. Distribution of *Tyrannus tyrannus* (BirdLife International and NatureServe, 2014). Dots indicate some remarkable sightings mentioned in text, outside the normal distribution range: (A) South Georgia Islands; (B) Falklands Islands; (C) Monte León National Park (Santa Cruz Province); (D) Península Valdés (Chubut Province). Black dots indicate the records reported in this paper for Uruguay: (1) Laguna Merin, 1995 (Rocha department); (2) Route 8, km 93.5, 2003 (Lavalleja department); (3) Potrerillo de Santa Teresa Biological Station, 2012 (Rocha department); (4) Laguna de Castillos, 2016 (Rocha department).

Results

EA and MJRC identified the species in the photographs by consulting field guides (Ridgely and Tudor 2009, Narosky and Yzurieta 2003, van Perlo 2009, Gwynne et al. 2010, Chandler et al. 1983), and the *Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive* (Mobley 2016). JCG has observed the species in Florida, USA, and therefore he was familiar with it. *Tyrannus tyrannus* is a medium-sized passerine, with black head, upper-parts blackish-grey, grey wings with grey-white coverts and secondary feathers white below, with a greyish tinge in chest and breast; rounded an black tail with a white terminal band; black bill; and legs short and black. In Uruguay the most similar species is *T. savana*, a very common, migratory species that inhabits open areas—mostly campos and open forests—and breeds in the southern cone of South America during the same season as *T. tyrannus* overwinter there (Ridgely and Tudor 2009, van Perlo 2009, Azpiroz 2012, Mobley 2016, Mobley and Garcia 2016). Adults of *T. savana* are very conspicuous: males and females have extremely elongated outer rectrices that make the identification unmistakable (Fig. 4), but juveniles have much shorter tails, which makes identification more difficult (Fig. 5). The juvenile of *T. savana* differs from *T. tyrannus* mainly in the color of upper-parts and wings, which are brownish (not grayish) that contrast with the black head, the lack of the greyish tinge on chest and breast, and the shape of the tail, which is shorter than adults, but forked. The photographs of the individuals seen in Uruguay show some characters that allow the identification as *T. tyrannus*, as well as the discrimination from *T. savana* juveniles. In Figures 2 and 3, both individuals show a straight tail, blackish-grey upperparts and dark head, showing little contrast between the dorsal plumage and head. The absence of a terminal white band of the tail in the two photographed individuals could be caused by wear (Ridgely and Tudor 2009), but all other characteristics eliminate juvenile *T. savana* and support our identification of *T. tyrannus*. The white band of the tail was evident in the bird seen in Laguna de Castillos when perched, and was very conspicuous when the bird opened the tail in flight, often just before perching.

Discussion

The records presented in this paper represent the first through fourth records of *Tyrannus tyrannus* in Uruguay. The photographs allow the identification of the individu-

Figures 2–5. Photographs of 2 *Tyrannus tyrannus* recorded in Uruguay and comparison with *Tyrannus savana*. **2.** Individual seen by EA in Laguna Merin, Rocha, 7 of May, 1995. **3.** Individual seen by MJRC in Potrerillo de Santa Teresa Biological Station, Rocha, 14 of November, 2012. **4.** *Tyrannus savana*, adult (photo by MJRC). **5.** *Tyrannus savana*, juvenile (photo by V. Merlino).

als as *T. tyrannus*, as they show most of the diagnostic characters. The species is a migrant passerine that winters in South America, though usually no further south than northern Argentina. Vagrancy is common in many migratory species, especially for long-distance migrants. *Tyrannus tyrannus* is a long distance migrant and has been regularly found outside the normal distribution (some remarkable ones are represented in Fig. 1). The most southern record of the species is South Georgia Island (Prince and Payne 1979), followed by the Falkland Islands (Woods 1988), one record in Santa Cruz Province (Monte León National Park; Militello and Schieda 2011), and another in Chubut Province (Península Valdés, Chevez 2009). There are also some records in Chile (reviewed in Marín 2004, Barros 2010; see also Barros and Schmitt 2011), and central Argentina (reviewed in Chevez 2009, Militello and Schieda 2011), showing that vagrancy is common in the species, maybe more common than we know today because the similarity with juveniles of *T. savana*. Because of the scarcity of records (just 4 in a period of more than 20 years), and the fact that the species is gregarious in the wintering areas but the sightings were of solitary individuals, we propose that the species is a vagrant in Uruguay.

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Authors' Contributions

EA, JCG and MJRC collected the data, MJRC wrote the text.

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